

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for separating different kinds of solid plastic particles in a solid plastic mixture, ~~said method comprising~~ which comprises the steps of preparing a solid plastic mixture comprising plural kinds of diamagnetic solid plastic particles, floating, suspending or precipitating said solid plastic particles in an aqueous solution of paramagnetic inorganic salt as a supporting liquid, applying a magnetic field gradient to the solid plastic mixture, and levitating or anti-levitating said [the] plastic particles at different locations in the supporting liquid ~~under a~~ under the magnetic field gradient, depending upon ~~their~~ the densities and diamagnetic susceptibilities of the plastic particles.

~~2-3.~~ (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method claimed in claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the separation is continuously carried out by circulating the suspending liquid.

~~5-8.~~ (Canceled)

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

B^D
Under a magnetic field gradient, solid particles floating and/or sinking in a
~~suspending~~ supporting liquid (most suitably a paramagnetic one) are levitated or anti-
levitated at different locations depending on their densities and diamagnetic susceptibilities.